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Security Council

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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 28 February 2005 from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and has the honour to enclose herewith the report of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) (see annex).

05-25540 (E) 180305

Annex to the note verbale dated 28 February 2005 from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

Report of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

The continued existence and development of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), the possibility of use or threat of use of WMD and the prospect of non-state actors acquiring such weapons are all the more threatening the whole international community.

The Islamic Republic of Iran considers acquiring, developing, and using WMD as inhumane, immoral, illegal, and against its very basic principles. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a State Party to all international instruments banning WMD, believes that the most effective way of preventing non-state actors from acquiring WMD is through the total elimination of such weapons.

While the adoption of Security Council resolution 1540 is considered as a practical short-term step aimed at filling the gap in the existing non-proliferation regimes, a number of serious and valid questions arise as to whether the content of the resolution fairly and adequately has addressed the concerns of all member States. The Islamic Republic of Iran raised some of these concerns before the meeting of the Security Council on 22 April 2004.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the operative paragraph 5 of resolution 1540 contains the pivotal provisions for the interpretation and implementation of the resolution. We are of the strong view that provisions of the resolution should not be interpreted or implemented in a manner that conflict with or alter the rights and obligations enshrined in the internationally negotiated instruments such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) as well as the Statute of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believes that non-proliferation and disarmament are mutually reinforcing. The efforts directed towards non-proliferation should be paralleled by simultaneous efforts aimed at disarmament. The strengthening of these two concepts together would serve well in securing a world that is free from weapons of mass destruction. Attaining the universality of non-proliferation and disarmament treaties, in particular NPT, is a must in this regard.

The Islamic Republic of Iran also views that any emphasis on the concept of non–proliferation should not divert the attention of the Member States from the nuclear disarmament as the highest priority of the international community.

Taking into account "the Guidelines for the preparation of national report" provided by the 1540 Committee, the Islamic Republic of Iran submits its report on measures taken to implement the resolution, as follows:

Operative paragraph 1: *All States shall refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer, or use nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery;*

1. As a State Party to all international instruments banning WMD, namely NPT, CWC, BTWC and the 1925 Geneva Protocol and based on its principled positions and contractual commitments, the Islamic Republic of Iran, even before the adoption of this resolution, has refrained and continues to refrain from providing any form of support to other states and non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

Operative paragraph 2: *all States, in accordance with their national procedures, shall adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws which prohibit any non-State actor to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes, as well as attempts to engage in any of the foregoing activities, participate in them as an accomplice, assist or finance them;*

2. According to the legal system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, international conventions and treaties that are ratified by the Parliament become part of national law of the country and are therefore binding on all Iranian citizens and residents, as well as those under the jurisdiction of the State. The most important international treaties and agreements that, in this regard, are applicable in the Islamic Republic of Iran are as follows:

i) The Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT), signed in 1969 and ratified by the Parliament in 1970;

ii) The Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and their Destruction (BTWC), signed in 1972 and ratified in 1973;

iii) The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (CWC) signed in 1993 and ratified in 1997.

iv) The Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency(IAEA), ratified in 1958;

v) The IAEA Safeguards Agreement, ratified in 1973;

vi) The Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) ratified on 16 May 1994. Pursuant to the ratification of the Convention, its international codes including International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code) adopted on 1 July 2004 and International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code) are implemented in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

3. The Islamic Republic of Iran has also enacted a set of relevant national laws and regulations banning and punishing the smuggling and illicit trafficking of any kind of weapons and ammunitions. In practice, these laws and regulations effectively prevent non-State actors to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use such weapons.

The relevant laws and regulations, which are effectively in force, are as follows:

i) The "Law on Enhancing Penalties for the Smuggling of Weapons and Ammunition and Armed Smugglers" adopted in 1971, which accordingly banned any form of production, acquisition, maintaining, purchasing, transferring, and concealment of explosive material, ammunition and weapons;

ii) The "Law of Custom Affairs" adopted in 1971 by which import of any weapons, ammunition and explosive materials by non-State actors are banned;

iii) The "Law on Punishment of Weapon Smuggling" adopted in 1974 which banned importing, exporting, purchasing, trafficking, concealing and maintaining illegal weapons.

iv) Article 688 of the "Islamic Penal Code" adopted in 1997, on polluting environment by chemical, biological and physical material, that could be harmful to the human and living species;

Operative paragraph 3: *all States shall take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials and to this end shall:*

(a) Develop and maintain appropriate effective measures to account for and secure such items in production, use, storage or transport;

4. The following laws, regulations, and procedures on safety and security of nuclear, chemical and biological materials, have been adopted and are applicable in the Islamic Republic of Iran:

i) The Law of the Establishment of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), adopted in 1974. According to this Law, the AEOI is responsible for preparing and adopting the regulations in relation to the protection against nuclear radiation and determine the methods of their supervision, as well as issuing the permission for setting up nuclear facilities in the country, in accordance with the safety and security rules and standards for such facilities;

ii) The Law on the Protection against Radiation, adopted in 1988;

iii) The Regulation on the Protection against Radiation, adopted by the Council of Ministers in 1990;

iv) The Regulation on the Protection against Ionizing Rays adopted in 1973;

v) The Guidelines on Early Warning, Epidemic Preparedness and Outbreak Responses based on the World Health Organization's related guidelines approved by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education in June 2002;

Operative paragraph 3 *(b) Develop and maintain appropriate effective physical protection measures;*

5. All related materials and facilities are under effective protection of the relevant governmental bodies. For the purpose of the physical protection, there are existing regulations such as:

i) Formation of the Protection Guard of the Nuclear Energy Industries, Facilities, Properties and Documents of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, adopted by the Council of Ministers in 1975;

ii) The Law on the Punishment of Saboteurs, adopted in 1975;

Operative paragraph 3 *(c) Develop and maintain appropriate effective border controls and law enforcement efforts to detect, deter, prevent and combat, including through international cooperation when necessary, the illicit trafficking and brokering in such items in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law;*

6. The relevant measures for border controls in the Islamic Republic of Iran are as follows:

i) According to the Customs Law, adopted in 1971, the Customs Administration is the responsible body to monitor and control import and export of all materials, equipment and goods through borders which are subject to monitoring in accordance with existing laws, regulations and procedures;

ii) In order to prevent illicit import-export, the law enforcement authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran are responsible for combating illicit trafficking and control of the State's borders, as well as implementing the border protocols and agreements.

Operative paragraph 3 *(d) Establish, develop, review and maintain appropriate effective national export and trans-shipment controls over such items, including appropriate laws and regulations to control export, transit, trans-shipment and re-export and controls on providing funds and services related to such export and trans-shipment such as financing, and transporting that would contribute to proliferation, as well as establishing end-user controls; and establishing and enforcing appropriate criminal or civil penalties for violations of such export control laws and regulations;*

7. The relevant regulations to control transition and transportation of goods in the Islamic Republic of Iran are as follows:

i) The Regulation on the Trafficking and Transition of Goods through the Territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, adopted by the Council of Ministers in 1998. According to this Regulation, the transit of chemical, biological and nuclear material is subject to observance of the legal regulations as well as obtaining the required permissions from relevant authorities;

ii) The Regulation on the Road Transportation of Dangerous Materials, adopted in 2002, according to which the road transportation of chemical, biological, and nuclear materials and equipment that are harmful and hazardous for human and animal health, as well as the environment, is subject to observance of specific legal regulations;

Operative paragraph 6. *Recognizes* the utility in implementing this resolution of effective national control lists and calls upon all Member States, when necessary, to pursue at the earliest opportunity the development of such lists;

8. Based on the international instruments to which the Islamic Republic of Iran is a party as well as its own national regulations, there exist necessary national control lists, including:

i) The Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration implements the state laws and regulations on export-import in accordance with the Export-Import Regulations Code and its annexed tariff table. This Code is regularly updated in light of the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS), codified by the World Customs Organization;

ii) The Customs Administration is a member of the World Customs Organization (WCO) and has been implementing the WCO's Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS), since 25 September 1993. The Customs Administration also implements the ratified document of the WCO, no. L13 dated 29/5/2005, on the list of "banned chemical materials" or "chemical materials subject to special regulations";

iii) The Customs Administration, in accordance with the 1990 Regulation on the Protection Against Radiation, and the latest procedures concerning sensitive radioactive materials and equipments, has established specific tariffs for such items in coordination with Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, and monitors and controls the import–export process of such materials and equipments, and prevents their illegal import–export;

iv) The Islamic Republic of Iran, in accordance with the 1993 Law of the Import-Export and the approved rules of procedure of 21 April 1994 for import-export of chemicals named in the Chemical Weapons Convention, has created 11 digit tariff codes to which Iran's Customs Administration is responsible for implementing;

v) Following the ratification of Chemical Weapons Convention by the Parliament on 27 July 1997, its focal point (National Authority) was established in the Islamic Republic of Iran, with its Secretariat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Secretariat issues import-export licenses for chemicals in accordance with the Convention and domestic laws and regulations as well;

Operative paragraph 6. States may require assistance in implementing the provisions of this resolution within their territories and invites States in a position to do so to offer assistance as appropriate in response to specific requests to the States lacking the legal and regulatory infrastructure, implementation experience and/or resources for fulfilling the above provisions;

9. As mentioned, several laws and regulations concerning import-export control are in force in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran makes every effort to exercise effective controls over materials and equipments covered by this resolution.

However, due to its long sea and land borders and given the huge amount of financial and human resources required for the implementation of the resolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes assistance in form of expertise, technical, and financial resources. Specific requests, if deemed necessary, will be announced in the future.

Operative paragraph 8: *all States:*

(a) To promote the universal adoption and full implementation, and, where necessary, strengthening of multilateral treaties to which they are parties, whose aim is to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons;

10. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a State party to the NPT, BTWC, and CWC, as well as the 1925 Geneva Protocol, continues to support the universality of these international instruments in different fora, including the NPT Review Conferences and the Conferences of States Parties to the CWC and BTWC.

Operative paragraph 8. *(b) To adopt national rules and regulations, where it has not yet been done to ensure compliance with their commitments under the key multilateral nonproliferation treaties;*

11. As it is mentioned in paragraph 2, according to the legal system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, international conventions and treaties which are ratified by the Parliament become part of national law and, therefore, adopting additional legislation is not deemed necessary in this regard. However, due to the complexity of implementation of some international obligations, a number of new initiatives has been undertaken:

i) In order to facilitate implementation of the CWC, the bill of "The Law of National Implementation of the CWC" was presented to the Parliament for adoption in 2004. According to article 17 of the bill, possessing, acquiring, producing, developing, transferring, stockpiling, maintaining, using or threatening to use chemical weapons or collaboration in committing these acts constitute crimes, and perpetrators will be punished in accordance with the relevant regulations of the Islamic Penal Code;

ii) A bill to combat terrorism was approved by the Council of Ministers on 18 November 2003 and sent to the Parliament for adoption in order to become law. In accordance with the bill, production, possession, acquiring, stealing, deceptive acquisition, illicit trafficking, transportation, stockpiling, and development of nuclear, chemical and biological materials that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or any other peaceful purposes, constitute terrorist crimes.

Operative paragraph 8. *(c) To renew and fulfill their commitment to multilateral cooperation, in particular within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, as important means of pursuing and achieving their common objectives in the area of non-proliferation and of promoting international cooperation for peaceful purposes;*

12. The Islamic Republic of Iran is a party to the NPT, BTWC and CWC as well as the 1925 Geneva Protocol, and has signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Likewise, it is a member-state of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and has ratified the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement in 1974. It has also signed and has been voluntarily implementing the provisions of the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement since 18 December 2003. The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to honor all its commitments under the international instruments to which it is a State Party.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a Member of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has actively participated in multilateral mechanisms for strengthening and enhancing all the commitments contained in the NPT, CWC and BTWC.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has had an effective and constructive participation in the international meetings and conferences including the review conferences of these treaties. Likewise, it has a continuous and constructive relationship with the IAEA, Preparatory Commission of the CTBT, and the Technical

Secretariat of the OPCW, as well as the national focal points of State Parties to the CWC. The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to fully support these organizations.

In this context, based on the bitter but valuable experiences of Iranian physicians who treated Iranian injuries of Iraqi chemical attacks during the eight-year imposed war and with the help of Technical Secretariat of OPCW, various training courses have been organized on medical treatment of chemical injuries in Iran.

(d) To develop appropriate ways to work with and inform industry and the public regarding their obligations under such laws;

13. In accordance with the obligations under the CWC and with the cooperation of the OPCW, various seminars were also held by the National Authority of Iran for the industry owners and government officials who deal with the implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention. The major goal of these seminars was to improve and update the knowledge of participants about their obligations under the Convention and inform them of the latest developments with regard to the implementation of the Convention.

Operative paragraph 9. *all States to promote dialogue and cooperation on nonproliferation so as to address the threat posed by proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons, and their means of delivery;*

14. Iran was the first country in the Middle East region to initiate the idea of establishing a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ) as an important disarmament measure in 1974, which was followed by the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly. Since 1980, the General Assembly of the United Nations has annually adopted, by consensus, a resolution on this issue. Iran continues to support and promote this initiative.

Operative paragraph 10: *all States, in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law, to take cooperative action to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery, and related materials;*

15. In our view, cooperation among all member States is a key element to prevent illicit trafficking in WMD. Nonetheless, the implementation of paragraph 10 of the resolution should be strictly in conformity with the well-established and universally-recognized principles of international law, in particular "the freedom of navigation on the high seas," and "the right of innocent passage". Likewise, every national legislation or order in this regard should be fully compatible with these recognized principles.

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Note verbale dated 3 March 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Benin to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Benin to the United Nations in New York presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and has the honour to transmit herewith the first national report of the Republic of Benin in accordance with paragraph 4 of the said resolution (see annex).

05-25778 (E) 150305 180305

Annex to the note verbale dated 3 March 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Benin to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

First National Report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

Benin considers the issue of disarmament to be fundamental to establishing peace and promoting development. It therefore makes a considerable effort to implement the relevant international conventions while at the same time enacting legislation on disarmament.

Paragraph 1: Decides that all States shall refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery:

Benin believes that the question of prevention of access by non-State actors to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) should be linked to that of disarmament, and that States in possession of weapons of mass destruction should be called on to eliminate them, where necessary, or further reduce available stocks by ending programmes on the modernization of such weapons. The acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors poses a serious threat to international peace and security. The problem of non-State actors accessing weapons of mass destruction stems from the unacceptable accumulation, for covert purposes, of such weapons by States. Benin reiterates that it does not, and will not, provide any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery at the national, subregional, regional and international levels.

Paragraph 2: Decides also that all States, in accordance with their national procedures, shall adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws which prohibit any non-State actor to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes, as well as attempts to engage in any of the foregoing activities, participate in them as an accomplice, assist or finance them:

Since the 11 September 2001 attacks on the United States of America and the attack on the United Nations office in Iraq, Benin has been extremely concerned about terrorism, a criminal act which cannot be justified for any reason. Terrorism is not the prerogative of a particular religion or nationality, let alone civilization. It has also become clear that carrying out terrorist attacks, albeit for reasons that their authors believe to be justified, does little to further the causes in whose name such attacks are carried out.

For this reason, Benin is in favour of strict political, economic, legal and diplomatic measures to prevent and eradicate this scourge. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), in 2002 Benin submitted a report to the Counter-Terrorism Committee detailing the measures it had taken to combat terrorism. This report highlights the serious efforts made at the national level, as part of the Penal Code reform, to suppress international terrorism, in cooperation with other members of the international community and on the basis of relevant legal instruments.

To this end, Benin has ratified most of the international conventions on terrorism. Since no country is immune to terrorism, Benin attaches great importance to the measures needed to combat terrorism.

Benin has adopted a number of key measures with regard to weapons. The term "weapon" is used here in its generally accepted meaning:

1. The sale, production, possession, transport and storage of weapons inside Benin is regulated by **Decree No. 61-31/PR/MU/AM of 7 February 1961** on the weapons and ammunition regime in the Republic of Benin.

This decree provides that each year the Minister of the Interior must issue an order establishing the number of sophisticated weapons that may be imported into the country.

A new bill on the weapons and ammunition regime was examined by the national commission on legislation and codification in September 2004.

2. The legal and other measures governing acts of terrorism which are being incorporated into the new Penal Code currently being drafted will also be applicable to the prevention and punishment of acts relating to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Articles 90 and 91 define and punish terrorist acts as follows:

Article 90 — The following offences shall constitute acts of terrorism if they are connected with an individual or collective enterprise aimed at seriously disrupting law and order through intimidation and terror:

(1) wilful attacks on life, wilful attacks on the physical integrity of the person, abduction and kidnapping, as well as the hijacking of aircraft, ships or any other means of transport;

(2) theft, extortion, destruction, defacement or deterioration, as well as computer-related offences;

(3) the manufacture or possession of lethal or explosive machines or devices;

(4) the production, sale, import or export of explosive substances;

(5) the acquisition, possession, transport or illegal carrying of explosive substances or devices manufactured with the assistance of such substances;

(6) the possession, carrying or transport of war weapons and ammunition;

(7) the development, manufacture, possession, stockpiling, acquisition and transfer of biological or toxin-based weapons.

Article 91 — The introduction into the atmosphere, the ground, the subsoil or waters, including those of the territorial sea, of a substance likely to endanger the health of humans or animals or the natural environment shall also constitute an act of terrorism if it is connected with an individual or collective enterprise aimed at seriously disrupting law and order through intimidation and terror.

The competence of the courts in the case of acts committed outside Benin by a Beninese citizen or a person habitually resident in Benin and acts committed by a foreign national currently in Benin is outlined in title IX, articles 553, 554 et seq. of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Title IX: Offences committed abroad

Article 553 — Any Beninese citizen who, while outside the territory of the Republic, is found guilty of an act which constitutes an offence under Beninese law may be prosecuted and sentenced by the Beninese courts.

Any Beninese citizen who, while outside the territory of the Republic, is found guilty of an act which constitutes an offence under Beninese law may be prosecuted and sentenced by the Beninese courts, if the act is punishable under the law of the country in which it was committed.

The provisions of the preceding paragraphs shall apply to persons who do not acquire Beninese citizenship until after the date of the commission of the act ascribed to them.

Article 554 — Any person who, while inside the territory of the Republic, has become an accessory to an offence committed abroad may be prosecuted and sentenced by the Beninese courts if the act is punishable under both the law of the foreign country and Beninese law, provided that the act which constitutes an offence has been ascertained by a final decision of the foreign court.

The draft Penal Code provides for the suppression of all forms of terrorism in accordance with the United Nations Conventions acceded to and ratified by Benin:

1. Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft;
2. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft;
3. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation;
4. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents;
5. International Convention against the Taking of Hostages;
6. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation;
7. Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection;
8. International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings;
9. International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

The following legal instruments are in the process of being ratified:

1. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation;
2. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf;
3. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

Having noted the link between terrorism and transnational organized crime, as highlighted in resolution 1373 (2001), Benin has ratified the following conventions:

- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;
- Additional Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;
- Additional Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air;
- Additional Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

Considerable efforts are being made to incorporate provisions relating to suppression into domestic legislation.

The objective is to establish rules in the above areas in the draft Penal Code submitted to Parliament.

Paragraph 7: Recognizes that some States may require assistance in implementing the provisions of this resolution within their territories:

As Benin has no specific legal or statutory framework to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, it will request assistance from countries having such expertise.

However, where action to combat terrorism is concerned, the Benin authorities have asked for technical assistance to establish a system for surveillance of the territory, including border control.

Although some progress has been made as a result of assistance from the International Civil Aviation Organization in the area of airport safety, Benin is in need of technical assistance in the following areas:

Establishing standards for collection and dissemination of information and warnings about passengers.

Establishing minimum standards concerning the issuance of identification documents and travel documents; setting minimum standards and recommendations concerning the use of biometry in the establishment of procedures and the production of documents.

Establishment of minimum standards in relation to equipment used to verify the authenticity of documents at places of entry in or exit from a State.

Paragraph 8: Calls upon all States:

(a) ***To promote the universal adoption and full implementation, and, where necessary, strengthening of multilateral treaties to which they are parties, whose aim is to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons;***

(b) ***To adopt national rules and regulations, where it has not yet been done, to ensure compliance*** **with their commitments under the key multilateral non-proliferation treaties;**

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Benin became a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 26 May 1999, and has established fruitful cooperation with the Agency in the areas of medicine, agriculture, industry and the environment.

The Agency's activities with Benin are coordinated by a National Liaison Officer for IAEA.

A National Coordinator is responsible for radiation protection issues.

Benin worked towards the decision of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in May 1995 concerning the indefinite extension of the Treaty, signed in 1968.

In this context, steps have been taken to sign the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement pursuant to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CNTBT)

Benin signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 27 September 1996 and ratified it on 16 February 1999 because it was convinced that the Treaty provided a legal framework establishing favourable conditions for the elimination of nuclear-weapon tests worldwide. The same is true of its decision to sign and ratify the Pelindaba Treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa, signed in Cairo on 11 April 1996.

Chemical Weapons Convention

Benin has been a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction since 13 June 1998. It ratified the Convention on 31 July 1999.

The National Authority on chemical weapons participates in all the programmes of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, established to supervise the implementation of the Convention at the national level. However, it needs assistance in order to be able to function effectively.

Benin is also a party to several other conventions on disarmament and international security, including:

Treaty on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

Sea bed Treaty;

Convention on Environmental Modification;

Biological Weapons Convention;

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocols I and II.

(c) ***To renew and fulfil their commitment to multilateral cooperation, in particular within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, as important means of pursuing and achieving their common objectives in the area of non-proliferation and of promoting international cooperation for peaceful purposes:***

Benin takes part in the international community's efforts to prevent and combat terrorism at several levels, namely the following:

1. International level

With the United Nations

Benin took an active part in the elaboration of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its additional protocols, which it signed on 13 December 2000 in Palermo and ratified on 1 March 2004.

Work is being completed on incorporating these instruments into domestic legislation. With technical support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Benin took part in meetings on the implementation of these instruments.

With the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Benin participates regularly in the seminars organized by IAEA on strengthening the safeguards system, nuclear safety, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, physical protection of nuclear material and radioactive waste management.

Benin has requested assistance in implementing the legal instruments on protection against nuclear terrorism.

An Agency mission travelled to Benin from 12 to 14 March 2004 to raise the governmental and parliamentary authorities' awareness of the necessity and advantages of acceding to the international legal instruments in the nuclear field.

With the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

Benin is a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention and considers that chemical weapons are also weapons of mass destruction; it takes part in the meetings organized by the technical secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on various aspects of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction.

2. At the African regional level

Benin ratified the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism on 1 March 2004. With support from the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF), it took part in the Regional Ministerial Conference of French-speaking Countries of Africa for the promotion of ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, held at Cairo from 2-4 September 2003, which led to the Cairo Declaration adopted on 4 September 2003.

3. At the subregional level

Benin participates actively in the work of the Economic Community of West African States and West African Economic and Monetary Union.

As a member of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, Benin is required to implement WAEMU Regulation 07/2002/CM/UEMOA of 19 September 2002 concerning action to combat money-laundering in WAEMU member States.

Benin is also required to incorporate the provisions on money-laundering contained in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which it ratified on 20 August 2004.

During the legislative process, Benin will also take into account the work of the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money-Laundering (GIABA) aimed at harmonizing legislation on money-laundering.

GIABA was established by decision A/DEC.9/12/99 of the heads of State and of Government of the Community of West African States (ECOWAS) at its 22nd meeting, held in Lomé, Togo, in December 1999. Benin is a candidate to host GIABA headquarters.

Pursuant to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, Benin has incorporated penalties for terrorism in all its forms into its domestic legislation.

Benin's draft Penal Code provides that the procedure relating to money-laundering shall also be used for freezing, seizing or confiscating property intended for a terrorist group or deriving from terrorist acts.

Cotonou, 24 January 2005

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Note verbale dated 8 March 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and has the honour to transmit, annexed hereto, a copy of Bolivia's report submitted in compliance with that resolution (see annex).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 8 March 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

Report of the Government of Bolivia on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) reaffirms the need for States parties appropriately to fulfil their obligations in relation to arms control and to prevent proliferation in all its aspects of weapons of mass destruction, which constitutes a threat to international peace and security. To that end, coordination and control measures must undoubtedly be strengthened with the relevant bodies at the national, regional and international levels, in order to tackle this problem most efficiently in accordance with the resolution.

Bolivia, as a member of the international community, will implement the provisions of resolution 1540 (2004). To that end, coordination and control measures must undoubtedly be strengthened with the relevant bodies at the national, regional and international levels, in order to tackle this problem most efficiently in accordance with the aforementioned resolution.

Paragraph 1

(The Security Council) ... 1. Decides that all States shall refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

Bolivia does not possess nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, ballistic missiles or any other type of missile designed to carry weapons of mass destruction, nor has it received reports or information to the effect that weapons of mass destruction have been produced in the country.

Similarly, Bolivia firmly supports international efforts for arms control and disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which represent a threat to international and regional peace and security.

Paragraph 2

(The Security Council) ... 2. Decides also that all States, in accordance with their national procedures, shall adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws which prohibit any non-State actor to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes, as well as attempts to engage in any of the foregoing activities, participate in them as an accomplice, assist or finance them;

At the national level a series of legal norms have been established to guarantee public security in connection with the use of harmful chemical products. Article 216 of the Penal Code provides for prison terms of up to 10 years for offences that are harmful to public health, such as: spreading of serious or contagious diseases which produce epidemics, poisoning or contamination of water intended for public use and marketing of substances harmful to health.

Where the environment is concerned article 113 of Act No. 1333 provides for prison terms of up to 10 years for anyone who permits, cooperates or assists in the storage, introduction or transport anywhere in the national territory of toxic, dangerous or radioactive waste or other waste of external origin.

Paragraph 3

3. **Decides also that all States shall take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials and to this end shall:**

(a) **Develop and maintain appropriate effective measures to account for and secure such items in production, use, storage or transport;**

(b) **Develop and maintain appropriate effective physical protection measures;**

Bolivia does not possess weapons of mass destruction of any kind.

(c) **Develop and maintain appropriate effective border controls and law enforcement efforts to detect, deter, prevent and combat, including through international cooperation when necessary, the illicit trafficking and brokering in such items in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law;**

(d) **Establish, develop, review and maintain appropriate effective national export and trans-shipment controls over such items, including appropriate laws and regulations to control export, transit, trans-shipment and re-export and controls on providing funds and services related to such export and trans-shipment such as financing, and transporting that would contribute to proliferation, as well as establishing end-user controls; and establishing and enforcing appropriate criminal or civil penalties for violations of such export control laws and regulations;**

With regard to paragraphs (c) and (d), article 22 (p) of the Armed Forces Organization Act (Act No. 1405) provides that the Ministry of Defence is responsible for expressly authorizing and controlling all imports of weapons, munitions and chemical, bacteriological and radiological agents; its enabling legislation is duly implemented through the War Material Department.

It should also be mentioned that the draft law on weapons, munitions, explosives and dual-use chemical agents has been approved by the Defence Committee of the Chamber of Deputies and is expected to be adopted during the current session of the legislature. The draft law is designed significantly to improve the Government's control over the full range of operations involved in the acquisition, registration, possession, use, circulation and transfer of the above-mentioned items and defines the responsibilities of each of the corresponding entities. It is also intended to make a firm and transparent contribution to the effective implementation of international agreements, in accordance with the resolution's recommendation that States should improve the fulfilment of their commitments with regard to the problem of weapons.

Paragraph 6

6. **Recognizes the utility in implementing this resolution of effective national control lists and calls upon all Member States, when necessary, to pursue at the earliest opportunity the development of such lists.**

Bolivia takes note of the contents of this provision.

Paragraph 7

7. **Recognizes that some States may require assistance in implementing the provisions of this resolution within their territories and invites States in a position to do so to offer assistance as appropriate in response to specific requests to the States lacking the legal and regulatory infrastructure, implementation experience and/or resources for fulfilling the above provisions.**

Bolivia is considering the contents of this provision.

Paragraph 8

8. **Calls upon all States:**

(a) **To promote the universal adoption and full implementation, and, where necessary, strengthening of multilateral treaties to which they are parties, whose aim is to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons;**

(b) **To adopt national rules and regulations, where it has not yet been done, to ensure compliance with their commitments under the key multilateral non-proliferation treaties;**

(See annex 1)

(c) **To renew and fulfil their commitment to multilateral cooperation, in particular within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, as important means of pursuing and achieving their common objectives in the area of non-proliferation and of promoting international cooperation for peaceful purposes.**

Bolivia signed the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction" on 14 January 1993 and ratified it through Act No. 1870 of 15 June 1998; the Convention entered into force on 13 September 1998.

In fulfilment of the requirements of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), of which Bolivia is a member, Supreme Decree No. 27520 was adopted on 25 May 2004, establishing the National Authority, whose organizational structure is as follows:

Executive Board

President:

Vice-Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship

Vice-President:

Vice-Ministry of Defence, division of the Ministry of Defence

Members:

Vice-Ministry of Justice (Ministry of the Presidency)
Vice-Ministry of Social Welfare (Ministry of the Interior)
Vice-Ministry of Public Investment and External Finance (Ministry of Finance)
Vice-Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Ministry of Sustainable Development)
Vice-Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Exports (Ministry of Economic Development)
Vice-Ministry of Health (Ministry of Health and Sports)
Vice-Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Ministry of Rural and Agricultural Affairs)
Vice-Ministry of Hydrocarbons (Ministry of Mining and Hydrocarbons)

Technical Secretariat:

Vice-Ministry of Defence (Ministry of Defence)
Bolivian National Customs Office
Bolivian National Police
National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Service — SENASAG.

The Technical Secretariat, chaired by the Vice-Ministry of Defence, plays a vitally important role in activities aimed at controlling weapons of mass destruction. It will also be responsible for drawing up the lists of chemical substances whose production, use, transport, import and export by the companies and industries requiring them is subject to control.

The rules of procedure governing the Authority's functioning, responsibilities and short-, medium- and long-term objectives are currently being prepared.

Bolivia acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction on 10 April 1972. Its instrument of ratification was deposited on 30 October 1975.

(d) **To develop appropriate ways to work with and inform industry and the public regarding their obligations under such laws.**

Seminars and workshops are to be held in Bolivia during 2005 to make public opinion aware of the work carried out by the National Authority established under the OPCW.

Paragraph 9

Calls upon all States to promote dialogue and cooperation on non-proliferation so as to address the threat posed by proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons, and their means of delivery.

Paragraph 10

Further to counter that threat, calls upon all States, in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law, to take cooperative action to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery, and related materials.

Bolivia's firm and continued policy has been not to provide any kind of support to non-State bodies that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons that might be used as weapons of mass destruction.

Apéndice 1

Participacion de Bolivia en convenios multilaterales en relacion a las armas de destruccion masiva

- **"Convención sobre la Prohibición del Desarrollo, la Producción y el Almacenamiento de Armas Bacteriológicas (Biológicas) y Toxínicas y sobre su Destrucción".** Suscrita el 10 de abril de 1972. Fecha de Depósito del Instrumento: 30 de octubre de 1975.

- **"Convención sobre la Prohibición, el Desarrollo, la Producción, el Almacenamiento y el Empleo de Armas Químicas y sobre su Destrucción".** Suscrita el 14 de enero de 1993 y ratificada mediante Ley 1870 de 15 de junio de 1998. Fecha de Depósito del Instrumento: 14 de agosto de 1998.

- **"Tratado de No Proliferación de Armas Nucleares".** Firmado el 1° de julio de 1968 y ratificado el 26 de febrero de 1970, mediante Decreto Supremo N° 091120.

- **"Tratado para la Prohibición Completa de los Ensayos Nucleares".** Suscrito el 24 de septiembre de 1996 y ratificado el 29 de julio de 1999, mediante Ley N° 1988. Fecha de Depósito del Instrumento: 4 de octubre de 1999

- **"Convención sobre la protección física de los materiales nucleares"**, firmada el 3 de marzo de 1980. Promulgada como Ley No. 2288 de 5 de diciembre de 2001. Depósito del Instrumento de Adhesión: 24 de junio de 2002.

- **"Tratado para la Proscripción de las Armas Nucleares en América Latina y el Caribe (Tratado de Tlatelolco)"**, suscrito el 14 de febrero de 1967 y ratificado el 30 de diciembre de 1968.

- **Estatutos del "Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica"**, suscritos por Bolivia ante la ONU el 26 de octubre de 1956 y ratificados el 28 de noviembre de 1962. Aprobados por Bolivia mediante Resolución Suprema N° 74889 de 13 de septiembre de 1957.

DECLARACIONES RELACIONADAS AL CONTROL DE LAS MENCIONADAS ARMAS

- **"Declaración de Mendoza"**, de 5 de septiembre de 1991, junto con las Repúblicas de Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay y Uruguay, donde se declara a la región "Zona Libre de Armas Químicas y Biológicas".

- **"Declaración Política del MERCOSUR"**, junto con las Repúblicas de Argentina, Chile y Bolivia, donde se consigna a los Estados Firmante apoyar en todos los Foros la Plena Vigencia y Perfeccionamiento de los instrumentos internacionales para la No Proliferación de Armas de Destrucción Masiva.

Apéndice 2

Participacion de Bolivia en convenios multilaterales en el marco de las Naciones Unidas en relacion a la lucha contra el terrorismo

1.- CONVENIOS RATIFICADOS:

- ***"Convenio sobre la Prevención y el Castigo de Delitos contra las Personas Internacionalmente Protegidas, Inclusive los Agentes Diplomáticos"***, aprobado por la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas el 14 de diciembre de 1973. Promulgada como Ley N° 2289 de 5 de diciembre de 2001. Fecha de Depósito del Instrumento de Adhesión: 22 de enero de 2002.

- ***"Convención Internacional contra la Toma de Rehenes"***, aprobada por la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas el 17 de diciembre de 1979. Suscrita por Bolivia el 25 de marzo de 1980. Promulgada como Ley N° 2280 de 27 de noviembre de 2001. Fecha de Depósito del Instrumento de Adhesión: 7 de enero de 2002.

- ***"Protocolo para la represión de actos ilícitos de violencia en los aeropuertos que prestan servicio a la Aviación Civil Internacional"***, (Complementario del Convenio para la represión de actos ilícitos para la seguridad de la Aviación Civil Internacional), firmado en Montreal, Canadá, el 24 de febrero de 1988. Promulgado como Ley No. 2290 de 5 de diciembre de 2001. Depósito del Instrumento de Adhesión: 24 de junio de 2002.

- ***"Convenio para la represión de actos ilícitos contra la seguridad de la navegación marítima"***, aprobado en Roma, Italia, el 10 de marzo de 1988. Promulgado como Ley No. 2286 de 5 de diciembre de 2001. Depósito del Instrumento de Adhesión: 13 de febrero de 2002.

- ***"Protocolo para la represión de actos ilícitos contra la seguridad de plataformas fijas emplazadas en la plataforma continental"***, aprobado en Roma, Italia, el 10 de marzo de 1988. Promulgado como Ley No. 2291 de 5 de diciembre de 2001. Depósito del Instrumento de Adhesión: 13 de febrero de 2002.

- ***"Convenio sobre la marcación de explosivos plásticos para los fines de detección"***, firmado en Montreal el 1° de marzo de 1991. Suscrito por Bolivia el 1° de marzo de 1991. Promulgado como Ley No. 2285 de 5 de diciembre de 2001. Depósito del Instrumento de Ratificación: 1° de febrero de 2002.

- ***"Convenio internacional para la represión de los atentados terroristas cometidos con bombas"***, aprobado por la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas, el 15 de diciembre de 1997. Promulgado como Ley N° 2287 de 5 de diciembre de 2001. Fecha de Depósito del Instrumento de Adhesión: 22 de enero de 2002

- ***Convenio Internacional para la Represión de la Financiación del Terrorismo"***, aprobado por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas el 9 de diciembre de 1999. Suscrito por Bolivia el 2 de noviembre de 2001. Promulgado como Ley N° 2279 de 27 de noviembre de 2001. Fecha de Depósito del Instrumento de Ratificación: 7 de enero de 2002.

- ***"Convenio sobre las infracciones y ciertos otros actos cometidos a bordo de las aeronaves"***, firmado en Tokio, Japón, el 14 de septiembre de 1963. Bolivia se adhirió mediante Decreto Supremo 15641 de 21 de julio de 1979.

- ***"Convenio para la represión del apoderamiento ilícito de aeronaves"***, firmado en La Haya, Holanda, el 16 de diciembre de 1970. Bolivia se adhirió mediante Decreto Supremo 15640 de 21 de julio de 1978.

- ***"Convenio para la represión de actos ilicitos contra la seguridad de la aviación civil"***, firmado en Montreal, Canadá, el 23 de septiembre de 1971. Bolivia se adhirió mediante Decreto Supremo 15642 de 21 de julio de 1978.

2.- **CONVENIOS A NIVEL REGIONAL:**

- ***"Convención de la Organización de los Estados Americanos para Prevenir y Sancionar los Actos de Terrorismo configurados en Delitos contra las Personas y la Extorsión conexa cuando estos tengan trascendencia internacional"***, adoptada en Washington D.C., Estados Unidos de América el 2 de febrero de 1971. Suscrita por Bolivia el 19 de diciembre de 2001. Promulgada como Ley N° 2284 de 5 de diciembre de 2001. Fecha de Depósito del Instrumento de Ratificación: 9 de abril de 2002.

- ***"Convención Interamericana contra el Terrorismo"***, adoptada en Bridgetown, Barbados el 3 de junio de 2002. Suscrita por Bolivia ese mismo día. En proceso de ratificación en la Comisión de Relaciones Exteriores del la Cámara de Senadores desde el 6 de junio de 2004. **(EN PROCESO DE RATIFICACION)**.

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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 17 March 2005 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Djibouti to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of Djibouti to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of his notes verbales dated 21 June 2004 and 7 March 2005.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission has the honour to inform the Committee that Djibouti, which is classified as a least developed country, does not manufacture weapons of mass destruction or any kind of conventional weapon and, since it does not have such technology, cannot materially assist States or non-State actors to manufacture or procure weapons of mass destruction.

Moreover, as a party to the majority of the international legal instruments that prohibit the manufacture, stockpiling and transfer of such weapons, Djibouti cannot help States or non-State actors either legally or politically to manufacture or procure weapons of mass destruction.

Nevertheless, further to the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004), the Permanent Mission has attached herewith the report submitted by Djibouti pursuant to paragraph 4 of the aforementioned Security Council resolution (see annex).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 17 March 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Djibouti to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

Report of Djibouti to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

The present report has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 1540 (2004) and is being submitted to the Security Council Committee established under rule 28 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council.

1. Conscious of the threat posed to international peace and security by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and convinced that all Member States should fulfil their obligations in relation to disarmament and arms control, Djibouti supports unreservedly the various international efforts being made to ensure the non-proliferation and elimination of such weapons. It is also concerned about the devastating effects of the manufacture and use of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, whether by States or by non-State actors. Furthermore, it has repeatedly called for an end to the manufacture, use, possession, transport and stockpiling of such weapons on account of the devastation they can cause, globally, regionally and nationally.

2. In order to guarantee international peace and security, Djibouti would like such weapons quite simply to be eliminated. In that regard, it has supported and sponsored in the First Committee the relevant General Assembly resolutions on control of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

3. At the regional level, Djibouti has ratified the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) and has always supported efforts to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East, as has been done to secure stability and peace in other regions. It has supported the General Assembly resolutions adopted to that end, including resolution 58/34, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" and resolution 58/68, entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East".

4. Djibouti also wishes to stress that the Middle East and Africa, which are among the regions of the world where tensions are highest, should be made free of all types of weapons of mass destruction.

5. Djibouti's commitment to and focus on this issue are reflected internationally by its signature of and accession to the major international treaties and conventions on nuclear, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction.

6. Djibouti is doing its utmost to control its borders and to screen meticulously persons and goods crossing them. It strongly supports the efforts being made in all regions of the world to secure international peace and security and is therefore concerned about the upsurge in terrorist activity and about the possibility of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorist groups. Since the situation prevailing in certain parts of the world could make it easier for those groups to obtain such weapons, Djibouti invites the international community to work together towards the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. In order to dispel the fears aroused by the proliferation of such weapons, it is necessary first and foremost to put an end to situations of occupation and to resolve the conflicts persisting in certain regions of the world, including the Middle East, for maintaining the status quo can only worsen the situation and heighten tensions.